

Brief Notes

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Applies to: All markets

Horizon BCBSNJ and Partners In Care launch collaborative ACO to deliver better health care at lower costs

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and Partners In Care, an independent physician association and health care management company based in East Brunswick, launched a collaborative Accountable Care Organization (ACO) to improve care coordination for approximately 20,000 Horizon BCBSNJ members. Fifty-one primary care practices throughout New Jersey are participating in this ACO initiative, which took effect on January 1, 2014.

“This agreement with Partners In Care is another important step toward transforming how patient care is delivered in New Jersey with stronger coordination, a better patient experience and lower cost of care for Horizon BCBSNJ members,” said Jim Albano, Vice President of Network Management and Horizon Healthcare Innovations at Horizon BCBSNJ.

“As early pioneers with more than 18 years of experience in care coordination, population health and accountable care, we are excited about collaborating with Horizon BCBSNJ in improving patient care,” added Ralph Tang, President and CEO of Partners In Care. “We are proud to have a track record of working with health insurers and self-insured employers to measurably improve the health of their members and employees while bending the cost curve. We achieve these outcomes by working with and through our extensive and growing network of primary care and multi-specialty providers. We look forward to delivering similar results to Horizon BCBSNJ and its members.”

ACOs are built on a strong primary care foundation. Participating physician groups help create a healthier patient population through a coordinated, accountable approach to care among providers within the ACO. ACOs are designed to achieve measured patient quality outcomes and decrease unnecessary and duplicative medical tests and treatments.

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Under this ACO agreement, Horizon BCBSNJ will provide care coordination payments to the ACO to take on additional accountability for improving the health and patient experience as well as controlling the cost of care for its Horizon BCBSNJ patients. The ACO and its affiliated practices have an opportunity to share in the resulting savings, provided the ACO meets certain health improvement, patient satisfaction and cost goals.

Horizon BCBSNJ has a number of patient-centered programs, including Accountable Care Organizations, Patient-Centered Medical Homes and programs focused on Episodes of Care (i.e., joint replacement). More than 500,000 Horizon BCBSNJ members are now benefiting from Horizon BCBSNJ's patient-centered programs that are working to improve patient care while controlling costs.

If you have questions, please contact your Horizon BCBSNJ sales executive or account manager.